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Palestine *W/EL-5774N/P 2000*

Military Weakness of the Arabs 9.2

The Mufti and King Abdullah *26/4/48 22 4 48*

The following, dated April 21st is from our source JET and is based on conversation with a member of the Arab League Military Committee who on April 20th, returned from a tour of inspection of the Arab guerillas in Palestine.

(i) In his official report he stated that the superiority of the Jews over the Arab guerillas in arms, equipment and artillery, is very marked, and estimated that the Arabs will have little chance of success unless their regular armies intervene.

(ii) Azzam Pasha has sent a message to the Arab League Military Committee in Damascus stating his opinion that little can be achieved by Arab attacks. Military pressure must, however, be kept up in order to lend strength to the political efforts of the Arabs in the outside world.

(iii) Abdullah is rapidly gaining popularity in Arab Palestine and petitions are now being signed all over the country for his intervention with the Arab Legion. The strength of this movement has disposed the Mufti to make his peace with Abdullah.

2. The following is from our source POM and comes indirectly from Jamil Nardam.

(i) The Political Commission of the Arab League is endeavouring to bring about a reconciliation between the Mufti and the Hashomites because their armies will undoubtedly be needed to save Palestine.

(ii) King Abdullah has been requested by the Commission to reinforce the Transjordan troops already in Palestine.

(iii) The Commission is seeking means of securing the occupation of Palestine by regular Arab armies on May 16th.

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